

Commission News

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COMMISSION WELCOMES SWANN, ELMORE

The Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission is pleased to announce the addition to two new members to the Commission Board, Hal Swann of Guntown, MS, and Nick Elmore of Lucedale, MS.

HAL SWANN is a third-generation farmer in Lee County, MS. He has a bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University and serves on numerous boards in Lee County, including Lee County School Board, Mid-South Co-op Board and the Farm Bureau Board. He is a Commissioner for Lee County SWCD, and was recently elected to the position of MACD Second Vice President.

He and his wife, Cindy, have been married 32 years. Swann's eldest son, Rett, farms with Swann, and his youngest son, Will, is a junior at Mississippi State.

Although Swann admits to being "excited and nervous" about his board service, he knows people are needed to serve on boards. "He cares, and is a good person to serve on the board," Cindy Swann said.

"All he ever wanted to do was farm. He's never worked a day in his life because he does what he loves to do," she added.

Swann is a member of Hillcrest Church of Christ.



HAL SWANN

NICK ELMORE is a lifelong resident of Jackson County and lives in the Hurley community with his wife, Cindy.

He holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history from the University of South Alabama. Elmore has served Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District as a Deputy Commissioner since 2008, becoming a Commissioner in 2012.

"I commit to serving in the best and most productive manner possible to see that our local producers are given the tools to be the most productive possible," he said.

Elmore believes in the importance of community involvement and professional development, and serves in leadership roles in organizations around Jackson County. He is Jackson County's Tax Assessor, following 15 years of service to that office for the people of Jackson County.

A representative for the State to the International Association of Assessing Officers, Elmore holds seven appraisal certifications and designations. He is immediate past president of the Southeast Homebuilders Association, a member of Pascagoula Rotary Club and Pascagoula Elks Lodge No. 1120.

A member of Big Point United Methodist Church, he serves as the administrative board chairman and treasurer.



NICK ELMORE



SOIL TUNNEL EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY: For information about how to bring the Soil Tunnel to your Conservation District, please contact Clay Burns, MSWCC, at 601-354-7645 ext. 304, or email cburns@mswcc.ms.gov.

MSWCC BOARD MEETING AND BREAKFAST



KURT READUS

MSWCC BOARD MEETING/BREAKFAST: NRCS State Conservationist Kurt Readus (also pictured at left) speaks at the 2017 MSWCC Board meeting and breakfast on Wed., Jan. 18, 2017. PHOTO BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC



MARK GILBERT, MSWCC Executive Director, speaks at the MSWCC Board Meeting/Breakfast Jan. 18, 2017.

PHOTO BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC



HERMAN DUNGAN (left) receives a plaque in honor of his years of service as MSWCC Chairman from MSWCC Chairman **BUDDY ALLEN**.

PHOTO BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC

COMMISSIONERS' TRAINING AND BREAKFAST



BRAD SHEDD (MSWCC Bureau Director II, conducts a Commissioners' training session at the MACD Annual Meeting on Jan 19, 2017.

PHOTO BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC



DON UNDERWOOD speaks at the Commissioners' training session during the MACD Annual Meeting Jan 19, 2017.

PHOTO BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC



OATH OF OFFICE: Justice James W. Kitchens, Associate Justice, MS Supreme Court, swears in SWCD Commissioners on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017.

PHOTO BY DEB LOGAN



LEFT: Newly elected MACD President Pete Hunter speaks prior to the Commissioners' Oath of Office ceremony.

PHOTOS BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC



RIGHT: MACD Justice James W. Kitchens, Associate Justice, MS Supreme Court, explains the proceedings for the Oath of Office ceremony.



RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL JROTC AND JAZZ ENSEMBLE: Richland High School JROTC presents the colors while Richland High School Jazz Ensemble performs a heart-stirring *cappella* rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner.

PHOTO BY K.R. DOUGAN, MSWCC

MSWCC'S NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST III
NICK IVY PROMOTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR I

NICK IVY, a Natural Resource Specialist III and Field Representative for the Northwest and West Central counties in Mississippi, has been promoted to an Environmental Administrator I position at MSWCC in Jackson effective February 1, 2017.



NICK IVY
position at MSWCC in Jackson effective February 1, 2017.

A native of Jackson, MS, Ivy lives in Brandon, MS. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering Technology and Business.

Before joining the Commission in August 2014, he worked seven years in agricultural research for Mississippi State University and the University of Arizona, and as the Area Manager for Progressive Solutions Chemical Applicators in the North East Region.

Ivy and his wife, Shannon, have three children: Ethan, age 8; Dylan, age 5; and Julianna, age 1. They attend Crossgates United Methodist Church in Brandon.

In their spare time, the Ivy family enjoys the great outdoors, attending their children's sporting events, and attending live music concerts — especially bluegrass music, as often as possible.

JONES COUNTY SWCD STUDENT PLACES
SECOND IN NACD NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION

Allison Lee Eden, a 7-year old first-grader from Laurel, MS, placed second in the National Association of Conservation District's poster contest, NACD recently announced.

NACD received more than 250 "We All Need Trees" posters from students kindergarten through 12th grade, a news release stated.

A student at Nora Davis Magnet School in Laurel, Miss Eden's poster contest entry was submitted by the Jones County Soil & Water Conservation District.

To learn more about the poster and other contests, please contact your local Conservation District office. To learn more about NACD's stewardship and education programs, please visit NACD's website at www.nacdnet.org.



ALLISON EDEN'S FIRST PLACE STATE AND SECOND PLACE NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST ENTRY.

Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Mark E. Gilbert, CPM, Executive Director

Buddy Allen
Chairman
Tunica, MS

Pete Hunter
Vice Chairman
Clarksdale, MS

Herman Dungan Jr.
Prentiss, MS

Jerry Smith
Philadelphia, MS

Gary Blair
Brookhaven, MS

Hal Swann
Guntown, MS

Paul Myrick
Stringer, MS

Nick Elmore
Lucedale, MS

Pat Ragsdale
Walnut, MS

Charlie W. Morgan
State Forester
Jackson, MS

Cindy Hyde-Smith
Commissioner of
Agriculture
Jackson, MS

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dr. Gary Jackson
Director, MSU-ES
Mississippi State, MS

Dr. George Hopper
Director, M.A.F.E.S.
Mississippi State, MS



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MSWCC CALENDAR

NEXT MEETING:
April 5, 2017